

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications for an impartial third party in certain civil disputes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 154.052(b), Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) To qualify for an appointment as an impartial third party under this subchapter in a dispute relating to the parent-child relationship, a person must complete the training required by Subsection (a) and an additional 24 hours of training in the fields of family dynamics, child development, and family law, including a minimum of four hours of family violence dynamics training developed in consultation with a statewide family violence advocacy organization.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 154.052, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as amended by this Act, a person who satisfies the qualifications to be an impartial third party in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act is not required to comply with the requirements imposed by that section, as amended by this Act, until January 1, 2018, to be qualified to serve as an impartial third party under Subchapter C, Chapter 154, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 539 passed the Senate on March 22, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 539 passed the House on May 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 2, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor